

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEGUCI 03972 182231Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
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R 181548Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1293

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEGUCIGALPA 3972

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, SHUM, PEPR, MPOL, HO, US
SUBJ: PRESS COVERAGE OF AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON MILITARY JUNTA

REF: (A) TEGUCIGALPA 3926, (B) STATE 203541

1. ON AUGUST 16, AFTER DELIVERING NOTE TO FOREIGN MINISTER CONFIRMING CONTINUATION OF RELATIONS (REF A), AMBASSADOR CALLED ON MILITARY JUNTA EARLY AFTERNOON OF SAME DAY. VISIT RECEIVED WIDESPREAD, PRESS AND RADIO ATTENTION. BOTH RADIO COVERAGE AND NEWSPAPER STORIES EMPHASIZED U.S. INTEREST IN ELECTORAL SCHEDULE AND RESOLUTION OF BORDER DISPUTE.

2. REFORM-MINDED "TIEMPO" OF SAN PEDRO SULA PICTURED THE AMBASSADOR AND THE JUNTA TOGETHER ON THE FRONT PAGE, AUGUST 17 UNDER THE HEADLINES "AMBASSADOR JARAMILLO SAYS STRICT WATCHFULNESS" AND "GREAT INTEREST IN UNITED STATES FOR FREE ELECTIONS IN HONDURAS." PAGE TWO STORY REPORTED AMBASSADOR'S STATEMENTS THAT U.S. IS CLOSELY WATCHING ELECTORAL PROCESS, AS WELL AS SUPPORT FOR MEDIATION EFFORTS. ALSO INCLUDED IN STORY WAS A GOH PRESS RELEASE REPORTING VISIT AND NOTING AMBASSADOR HAD FIRST DELIVERED NOTE TO FONMIN EXPRESSING DESIRE TO CONTINUE CORDIAL RELATIONS, AS WELL AS DISCUSSING USG CONCERNS AND THAT THESE CONCEPTS WERE ALSO EXPRESSED TO JUNTA.

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3. THE MORE MODERATE "TRIBUNA" OF TEGUCIGALPA AUGUST 17 CARRIED A PICTURE OF AMBASSADOR WITH STATEMENT "U.S. DID NOT INTERVENE IN CHANGE OF MELGAR CASTRO" IN REPLY TO A REPORTER'S QUESTION. BACK PAGE FEATURE STORY, WHICH ALSO HAD PHOTO OF THE MEETING WITH JUNTA, QUOTED AMBASSADOR'S REPLY TO QUESTION OF ELECTIONS: "MY COUNTRY IS VERY INTERESTED IN SEEING ALL NATIONS RETURN TO A CONSTITUTION AND IS WATCHING THE PROCESS VERY CLOSELY."

5. SOMEWHAT MORE CONSERVATIVE SAN PEDRO DAILY "LA PRENSA" REPORTED ON ITS FRONT PAGE BUT NOT AS ITS PRIMARY HEADLINE THAT "CORDIAL RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. CONTINUE." BOTH "TIEMPO" AND "TRIBUNA" ALSO REPORTED THAT U.S. TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO HONDURAS WOULD CONTINUE. RADIO NEWS PROGRAM EVENING AUGUST 16 AND MORNING AUGUST 17 CARRIED INTERVIEW MAKING SAME POINTS.

JARAMILLO

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 18 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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